

of telegrams sent over the wire was 8,151 while the number sent by post was nil. On the 16th May the number of telegrams sent over the wire was 2,629 while the number sent by post was 2,265. That means, about 50 per cent had to be sent by post. On the 20th May after our alternative methods of communication came into operation, the number of telegrams sent over the wire was 4,106 while the number sent by post was 975. We had almost overcome the difficulty and were returning to normalcy in spite of this Go-Slow action.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: Do Government propose to take any disciplinary or other action against those persons who went on this ill-advised Go-Slow strike?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: We have got to work together and therefore we have to take action in case of gross breach of discipline.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: Is the Go-Slow action one of the recognised methods of strike?

DR. R. B. GOUR: Of course.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: It is not at all recognised as a method of strike.

DR. R. B. GOUR: May I know what were the demands that were accepted and what were the demands that were not accepted and were under consideration and for how long they were under consideration?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Sir, there were four demands and they were for the first time brought to the forefront at the time of the Hyderabad conference which was held in December last. The demands were, firstly the appointment of a Telegraph Enquiry Committee. This was their main demand and this was accepted and a communique has already been issued about the acceptance of this demand. The second demand was, promotion of ministerial staff to gazetted ranks. This was a question which was to be refer-

red to the Telegraph Enquiry Committee. Apart from that one of the suggestions that were made at one of the meetings with the Union was also under consideration separately and that was known to the Union. The third was revision of pay scales of telegraphists. This particular demand for upgrading the pay of telegraphists was opposed by another section of telegraph employees, namely, the clerks who maintained that this should not be done. So it became a controversial demand but even then it was not rejected and it is still under consideration. The fourth demand was for the cancellation of a supplementary list of candidates successful in a test held in the year 1953. The Union representatives discussed this question with us and the entire circumstances were brought to their notice and they were satisfied with regard to the question of seniority of these candidates who were declared successful at the supplementary examination.

DR. R. B. GOUR: What is the agreement that they have reached by which the Go-Slow action was withdrawn?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I explained to them the circumstances and the position and they realised that what they wanted had already been largely conceded.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: Were there any political parties behind this movement and if so which are they?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I believe there were no political parties.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

CHANGE IN TIME TABLE OF WESTERN RAILWAY FOR SAURASHTRA

*103. SHRI MAGANLAL B. JOSHI: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Western Railway effected changes in their time table

for Saurashtra without any notice to the public in April, 1957; and

(b) if so, what was the reason for this sudden change?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) Changes in timings of trains were effected with effect from 1st April 1957 and they were notified in important newspapers on the 31st March 1957 and in Sheet Time Tables displayed at stations.

(b) Due to last minute changes in the timings of certain trains the changes could not be publicised earlier.

ALR-CONDITIONED DE LUXE JANATA TRAINS

*104. SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state the number of passengers each of the air-conditioned de luxe Janata trains can accommodate and the number of passengers who actually travelled by these trains from the first day of their introduction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): Each fully air-conditioned train has 20 air-conditioned class berths and 240 III class air conditioned seats.

A statement showing the average number of persons month by month, who travelled by these trains from the date of their introduction, is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XVII, Annexure No. 19.]

SPEED CONTROL OF RAILWAYS in SAURASHTRA

*105. SHRI JETHALAL JOSHI: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for imposing speed control over the Railways in Saurashtra;

(b) when this control is to be lifted; and

(c) what is the amount of loss incurred by the Railways as a result of imposition of such speed control?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) to (c). Information is being collected.

MOBILE POST OFFICES IN NEW DELHI AND DELHI

*106. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present number of mobile post offices functioning in Delhi and New Delhi; and

(b) whether they are sufficient to meet the requirements and if not, what steps are proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) One.

(b) No. Arrangements are under way to start a second Mobile Post Office in Delhi shortly.

REQUEST BY ALL INDIA FARMERS' COUNCIL FOR EARLY FIXATION OF PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE

*107. SHRI N. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Farmers' Council which met in Delhi recently requested Government to fix and announce the prices of important agricultural produce well in advance of the sowing season; and

(b) if the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to accept this request?

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. P. JAIN): (a) The Farmers' Council which met in September 1956 passed a resolution requesting Government to fix prices of Agricultural Commodities at the commencement of the season.

(b) The matter is under consideration.